In 1964, Arthur Winograd replaced Fritz Mahler as conductor. Winograd was a musician and the founding cellist of the Juilliard Quartet. Under his direction, the HSO rose to new heights. Concerts were packed, ticket sales were higher than ever, and subscriptions rose like never before.

In 1966, the Ford Challenge Grant awarded the HSO $1,350,000. The HSO was seen as an exemplary local orchestra with special potential and vision for the next decade. These funds were used to establish the Hartford Symphony Orchestra’s endowment.

In 1967, the HSO made its debut at Lincoln Center’s Philharmonic Hall on May 9th. This was the first of five NYC appearances under Winograd.

The HSO performed by Invitation at Carnegie Hall in NYC in 1970, playing Wagner’s Faust Overture and Beethoven’s Grosse Fuge. The reviews were glowing.

During this decade, the HSO expanded their educational series to include four “Young People’s Concerts” at The Bushnell, a “Junior Symphony Series” for junior high school students, and a concert series at Connecticut College. The 70s also brought many of the world’s most celebrated soloists to Hartford, including Benny Goodman, Mitch Miller, Isaac Stern, Leon Fleisher, André Watts, Itzhak Perlman, Van Cliburn, Ellis Fitzgerld, and a 9-year-old Yo-Yo Ma.

HSO hired Richard Hayman to conduct the POPS! Series, which came alongside new and innovative programming, including the incorporation of rock n’ roll, modern jazz, and international music into the series.

Francis Goodwin II passed away in 1976 after devoting his life to creating and sustaining the Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

“There can be no hesitation in calling this one of the finest orchestras in the country.” — Harold Hobson, New York Times music critic, reviewing the HSO’s performance at Carnegie Hall in 1976.

The Hartford Symphony Orchestra performs at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Arthur Winograd, courtesy of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra.